



LOUISIANA SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 04.08.13

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STATE SENATE BEGINS WORK OF 2013 REGULAR SESSION

STATE BUDGET ISSUES AND TAX SYSTEM REFORMS

TOP THE SESSION AGENDA

Members of the Louisiana State Senate began the work of the 2013 Regular Session of the State Legislature at noon Monday, April 8, 2013. As the State Constitution dictates, the odd-numbered year session is centered on the consideration of certain revenue, tax and budget issues with limited discussion of other "general" legislation. The fiscal focus is especially appropriate this year as the state faces significant budget challenges and there are continuing discussions regarding major changes in the state's tax system, despite the decision by the governor not to pursue his own tax reform plan which had been under discussion for several months.

"There is no doubt that the most significant challenge we face at this legislative session is adopting a responsible balanced budget that, in the process, still provides the level of services Louisiana citizens need and expect. Working with our colleagues in the House, we will focus our efforts to that end," Senate President John A. Alario, Jr. (R-Westwego) said.



SENATE PRESIDENT ALARIO CALLS THE 2013 REGULAR SESSION TO ORDER.



SENATOR BROOME TALKS WITH HER COLLEAGUES ON THE
OPENING DAY OF SESSION.

Part of the budget discussion will center on the state's plans to further transform healthcare delivery and services, including plans to develop public-private partnerships for the operation of the state hospital system. It is an area of the budget that Senate President Pro-Tempore Sharon Weston Broome (D-Baton Rouge) expects lawmakers to watch closely.

"The planned changes for healthcare delivery relating to services provided at our state facilities are developing quickly and there is still much we do not know, especially as it relates to the level of services that will be provided and adequate access to those services,"

Sen. Broome said. "The healthcare proposals impact every area of the state and affect citizens in both our cities and our rural communities. I expect there to be a great deal of discussion on the issue."

With the discussion of the budget proposals and the bulk of the tax system reform measures beginning in the House, Senate President Alario intends for the Senate to initially focus on other matters, such as a renewed focus on treatment rather than incarceration for juvenile offenders and special intervention services for troubled students.

In advance of the start of the session, state senators pre-filed 235 bills for consideration this year. Legislators may file up to 5 additional measures that deal with specific revenue, tax and budget issues after the start of the session. The 2013 Regular Session must end by June 6, 2013.

Citizens can follow the work of the 2013 Regular Session on the Internet at www.senate.la.gov or www.legis.la.gov where they can read and print bills, review committee schedules and agendas and watch legislative proceedings live or through the legislature's video archives. Live broadcasts of legislative proceedings can also be seen weekday afternoons on certain local cable stations participating in LaTV, a cooperative effort of the House, the Senate, Louisiana Public Broadcasting and the Louisiana Cable Television Association.

For citizens visiting the State Capitol, there is now free wireless Internet Service available. Also, the updated joint legislative website - www.legis.la.gov - includes a new feature that allows citizens to track legislation of interest as issues move through the legislative process.

CITIZEN INFORMATION SERVICES

Louisiana Senate Information on the Internet
www.senate.la.gov or www.legis.la.gov

LaTV Broadcasts of Legislative Proceedings
Mon.-Fri. 2:00 PM-6:00 PM (In most areas)

Main Senate Number 225-342-2040

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